

### **EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT**

An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Teddy S. Gron on 4/12/2010.

The application has been amended as follows:

In the second line of claim 1, delete "by" and replace with --with--.

In line 6 of claim 1, delete "applied" and replace with --fed--.

In line 9 of claim 1, delete "applied at" and replace with --fed to--.

In line 19 of claim 1, delete "450°C" and replace with --425°C--.

The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance: The closest prior art of record (GB'271) does not teach or suggest a maximum temperature of 350-425°C (425°C finds support in instant Examples 1 and 6) with a temperature difference of 50-100°C between the top and the bottom of the column as now required by the claim(s) which thus produces a temperature of at most 375°C in the top part of the column. GB'271 instead teaches a column temperature of 400-600°C. Though GB'271 mentions heating the lower part of the column (see page 3, lines 1-5) a temperature difference between the bottom and top part of the reactor of 50-100°C is not taught and even if such a temperature difference were present, the 375°C maximum temperature in

the top part of the reactor required by the claim(s) is taught against by the temperature range of 400-600°C required by GB'271.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to ANTHONY J. ZIMMER whose telephone number is (571)270-3591. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday - Friday 7:30 AM - 5:00 PM EST.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Stanley Silverman can be reached on 571-272-1358. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

ajz

/Anthony J Zimmer/  
Examiner, Art Unit 1793

/Steven Bos/  
Primary Examiner, Art Unit 1793